

REMARKS

The present amendment is in response to the Official Action mailed on March 16, 2005. With the present amendment, claims 1, 12 and 15-24 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-3 and 5-24, as amended, are now pending in the present application.

Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification, including, for example, at ¶¶ 113, 121 and 123 of the published application.

In the Official Action, claims 1-3 and 5-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2 as being indefinite with respect to the term "user status." Applicants have amended the claims to clarify that the user status information is from the user computers and includes "data of partway-through games" as well as data stored in at least one of the recording medium and the user computer from the user computers. This clarifies that "user status information" indeed relates to the user; namely, it includes the status of a user's completion of games on his or her own user computer and also other data (such as device or user IDs) stored the recording medium, or computer, of the user's computer. Thus, Applicants request this rejection be withdrawn.

As the application currently recites a number of means-plus-function recitations under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 6, as requested by the Examiner, Applicants provide the following specification support for the means-plus-function limitations:

Claim 1: "means for requiring ...," "means for establishing ...," "means for requesting ...," "means for receiving ..." = programmed verification server 4.

Claim 7: "means for supplying ..." = programmed CPU 16 of entertainment apparatus main unit 1.

Claims 8, 9: "means for obtaining ...," "means for identifying ..." = programmed verification server 4.

Claim 11: "means for performing verification ...," "means for determining ..." = programmed verification server 4.

Claim 12: "means for preparing ...," "means for transmitting ..." = programmed verification server 4.

Claim 14: "means for selecting ..." = programmed content server 6.

Claim 15, 16, 17: "means for requiring ...," "means for identifying ...," "means for requesting ...," "means for preparing ...," "means for transmitting ..." = programmed verification server 4.

Claim 18: "means for obtaining ...," "means for preparing ...," "means for transmitting ..." = programmed verification server 4.

Claim 21: " means for supplying at least one of ...," "means for means for supplying user status information ...," "means for receiving a result ...," " means for receiving content information ..." = programmed CPU 16 of entertainment apparatus main unit 1.

Turning to the prior art rejections, in the Official Action, claims 1-3 and 5-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,110,041 to Walker ("Walker") and as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,665,489 to Collart ("Collart"). It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are not anticipated by either Walker or Collart.

Namely, Walker and Collart fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least the following claim elements of the presently claimed invention: (1) sending (or receiving by a verification server) user status information from the user computers representing *data of partway-through games* and data stored in the recording medium and/or the user computer from the user computers, and (2) transmitting content information from a

content server to the user computers to provide the content requested by the user computers and upgrading or debugging programs based on the user status information (i.e., including information representing data of partway-through games) of individual user computers.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims as being anticipated by the cited prior art references.

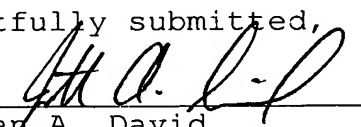
As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he telephone Applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: June 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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